

Appl. No : 10/060,842
Filed : January 29, 2002

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, Claims 4-8, 15-19 and 31-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 4-8 and 15 are amended and Claims 1-3 and 9-14 are canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in subsequent continuing applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 31-36 are allowable. The Examiner also indicated that Claims 4, 5, 7, 15, 16 and 18 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Claims 4, 7 and 15 have been amended as indicated above, and are now presented in independent form. Claims 5-6, 8, and 15-19 depend from Claims 4, 7 and 15 respectively (note: Claims 16-19 were previously dependent on Claim 15). Applicant notes that the limitations of intervening Claims 12, 13 and 14 have not been incorporated into Claim 15, since the Examiner's reasons for allowance do not appear to indicate that the limitations recited therein are required for the allowability of Claim 15. Thus, Applicant submits that Claims 4-8 and 15-16 are in condition for allowance as well.

Obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 6, 8-12, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. (US 6,137,212), in combination with one or more of US Patent No. 5,969,386 to Hong, U.S. Patent No. 5,902,650 to Feng et al., and U.S. Patent No. 6,064,149 to Raina. Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Examiner's rejections and each of the Examiner's assertions regarding what the prior art shows or teaches, including the Examiner's assertions regarding motivations to combine references. Nonetheless, the rejections of Claims 1-3, and 9-14 are moot in view of their cancellation without prejudice. With regard to the rejections of Claims 6, 8, 17 and 19, Applicant notes that these claims depend from Claims 4, 7 and 15 respectively (notably, Claims 17 and 19 were previously dependent on Claim 15). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 6, 8, 17 and 19 be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections and objections in the present application and to place the claims into condition for allowance. Nevertheless, if any issues remain which can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's representative at the number indicated below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 8/26/04

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